

City of Eugene Sustainability Commission



Work Plan FY10 and First Annual Report

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Sustainability Commission Members

The commission first met on November 28, 2007. The thirteen commissioners, 12 chosen by the City Council, and one councilor appointed by the Mayor are:

- Lisa Arkin
- Shawn Boles
- Howard Bonnett
- Joshua Bruce
- Brian Erickson
- David Funk
- Lorraine Kerwood
- Tim Laue (Vice-chair)
- Steve Newcomb
- Rusty Rexius
- Will Shaver (Chair)
- Joshua Skov
- Alan Zelenka (Councilor)
- Kip Much (served from November 2007 to October 2008)



Sustainability Commission Work Plan FY10

The Sustainability Commission was established in 2008 as a policy advisory body to the City Council and City Manager in the development or initiation of programs or actions that will enhance and create sustainable practices within the City and the community. The commission shall advise on policy matters related to:

- sustainable practices
- businesses that produce sustainable products and services
- City building design and infrastructure
- related issues that directly affect sustainability efforts considered by the council.

The first four outcomes in this work plan focus on new work the commission will engage in during FY10.

Outcome 1: Build community understanding of the triple bottom line (social equity, environmental health and economic prosperity).

In FY10, the Sustainability Commission will:

- Develop and implement the first phase of the Commission's Communications Plan
- Assist with education and outreach for the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan (including to the business community, neighborhood associations, not for profit groups, education sector, etc)
- Maintain established commission liaisons
- Hold joint meetings with the Planning Commission and Human Rights Commission and assess ways to work together to support the other groups' missions and outcomes while advancing a more sustainable community
- Hold a joint meeting with the Sustainability Board, maintain board liaisons and create common messaging for the community around sustainability issues.

Outcome 2: Link land use and transportation planning more closely with sustainability goals.

In FY10, the Sustainability Commission will:

- Delegate the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee to research and prepare recommendations for discussion by the full commission and then make recommendations to council on land use and transportation issues
- Maintain Commission member participation on the Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment
- Strengthen relationship with Planning Commission around sustainability issues.

Sustainability Commission Mission Statement:

The Sustainability Commission works to create a healthy community now and in the future by proposing measurable solutions to pressing environmental, social and economic concerns to the City of Eugene, its partners and its people.



Outcome 3: Develop more sustainable businesses, including creation of “green” jobs and “greening” of existing jobs and businesses.

In FY10 the Sustainability Commission will:

- Review University of Oregon MBA business school report commissioned by the City, Sustainability Commission and partners on the tools desired by businesses to help them become more sustainable. Assess role of commission in development/delivery of tools identified by businesses
- Work collaboratively with city and community partners to advance economic development in Eugene with a focus on green job creation.

Outcome 4: Partner with groups and agencies working on social equity issues.

In FY10 the Sustainability Commission will:

- Consider the request from the Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network to develop performance measurements and standards related to wages, benefits and other employment aspects for the City of Eugene
- Develop the partnership with the Human Rights Commission and investigate ways to collaborate on advancing social equity aspects of a sustainable community
- Explicitly connect social equity as part of the sustainability triple bottom line in all communications to council and the community.

The next three outcomes summarize the follow-up required for the five initial recommendations adopted by City Council and one accepted by the City Manager during FY09.

Outcome 5: Decrease Eugene community and city organization carbon emissions, including decreasing fossil fuel use 50 percent by 2030, and plan for adaptations.

In FY10 the Sustainability Commission will:

- Assist in the development of the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan. A commissioner will participate in the advisory team helping to develop the plan
- Review and comment on draft Community Climate and Energy Action Plan before June 2010

- Review and comment on draft Internal City Operations Climate and Energy Action Plan (to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020)
- Develop, in conjunction with Sustainability Board, measures for tracking success in implementing Internal City Operations Climate and Energy Action Plan.

Outcome 6: Develop and implement triple bottom line assessment tool and waste reduction goal.

In FY10 the Sustainability Commission will:

- Develop, in conjunction with the Sustainability Board, measures for tracking use and application of the triple bottom line assessment tool in City decision making
- Review and comment on draft internal Waste Reduction Action Plan to reduce City operations waste to landfill 90 percent by 2020
- Develop, in conjunction with the Sustainability Board, measures for tracking success in implementing internal Waste Reduction Plan.

Outcome 7: In conjunction with a wide variety of community partners, develop a community food security scoping and resource plan.

In FY10 the Sustainability Commission will:

- Meet in fall 2009 with community groups and organizations focused on food security
- Review and comment on food security scoping report prepared by staff for development of a food security plan.

Outcome 8: Respond to time sensitive and emerging issues and/or issues as requested by the City Council and/or City Manager

In FY10 the Sustainability Commission will:

- Investigate issues as appropriate.



Sustainability Commission

First Annual Report: May 2008 – June 2009

1 Introduction

The Sustainability Commission is reporting on progress and accomplishments from its first work plan. The City Council approved the commission's first work plan in April 2008, to cover the period from May 08 – June 09. In 2007 the council adopted Ordinance No. 20379, establishing the Sustainability Commission as a policy advisory body to the council and City Manager, to assist in the development of programs to create or enhance sustainable practices within the community. The Sustainability Commission is charged with advising on policy matters related to: sustainable practices, businesses that produce sustainable products and services, City building design and infrastructure, and related issues that directly affect sustainability efforts considered by the City Council.

1.1 Mission and scope

From the first commission meeting, both commissioners and community members attending the meetings have expressed an urgency to make bold recommendations to the City Council to help create a more sustainable Eugene. The commissioners have shown focused commitment to enhancing sustainable operations of the City organization and the community at large – including businesses, households, other organizations and institutions.

The commission quickly developed bylaws and a mission statement.

The Sustainability Commission works to create a healthy community now and in the future by proposing measurable solutions to pressing environmental, social and economic concerns to the City of Eugene, its partners and its people.

One of the biggest challenges for the commission has been the scope of its task. While the Sustainable Business Initiative Task Force Report provided an excellent starting place for the commission work, the recommendations do not cover all possible initiatives to help our community become more sustainable. The commission has

received pertinent, timely and well researched comments from many different community members which have brought new issues to commission attention. This public comment has been helpful in refining commission work for the year.

2 Initial Work Plan

The first commission work plan framework laid out eight priority topics:

- climate change
- transportation
- triple bottom line
- land use
- green building
- business initiatives
- waste
- food

It was not anticipated the commission could address all of these issues in the first year, but rather the commission considered these issues a priority to investigate as they all had a significant impact on Eugene's sustainability. For each of the eight priority topics the commission outlined the need to consider internal City operations, the broader community, as well as education and outreach.

Climate change was acknowledged as a major social and economic issue, as well as an environmental issue and the need to respond to climate change as a primary focus of the work plan was called out. Implicit in all the issues listed is the need to plan for the effects of increased fossil fuel prices and potential availability fluctuations that would impact the whole community.



3 Progress and Accomplishments

3.1 Recommendations to Council

While the commission began investigating the priority work plan issues, an Immediate Action Subcommittee was established to identify recommendations that could be forwarded to the council without further research. The Sustainable Business Initiative Task Force Report and the Portland Peak Oil Task Force Report *Descending the Oil Peak: Navigating the Transition from Oil and Natural Gas*, provided sufficient information for the development of five recommendations to the council. Public testimony highlighted the need for immediate attention to food security¹, enabling an additional recommendation to be proposed.

The City Council unanimously adopted five recommendations as below:

1. All City-owned facilities and City operations shall be “carbon neutral” (i.e., shall reduce net carbon emissions to zero, or if that is not possible, cancel all remaining emissions through the funding of approved local offset mechanisms or the purchase of approved offsets) by 2020.
2. The City of Eugene shall increase the volume of waste diverted from landfill from internal operations and facilities from current levels of an estimated 45 percent to at least 75 percent by 2014 and 90 percent by 2020.
3. The City of Eugene shall, in conjunction with a wide variety of community partners: by August 2010, develop a community climate action plan that will
 - (1) set a carbon emission reduction goal and establish targets for achieving that goal;
 - (2) identify strategies to achieve those targets;
 - (3) identify necessary adaptations;
 - (4) develop measures for tracking success;
 - (5) identify financial impacts; and
 - (6) include periodic

¹ Community food security is a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that promotes community self-reliance and social justice. Food security also consists of resilience to sudden changes in food availability and/or cost, such as would be caused by a rise in the price of transportation fuels, a decrease in local production, or decreased access to food imports to the community and the region.

progress reports to the community with annual reports of progress to the Sustainability Commission.

4. The City of Eugene shall, in conjunction with a wide variety of community partners: by August 2010, develop a community action plan that aims to reduce total, current community-wide fossil fuel consumption 50 percent by 2030 (as an absolute not a per capita reduction) by (1) establishing targets for achieving that goal; (2) identifying strategies to achieve those targets; (3) identifying necessary adaptations; (4) developing measures for tracking success; (5) identifying financial impacts; and (6) including periodic progress reports to the community with annual reports of progress to the Sustainability Commission.

(Note: This plan is being undertaken in conjunction with the community climate action plan, see recommendation 3 above. The resulting plan will focus on both climate and energy issues.)

5. The City of Eugene shall, in conjunction with a wide variety of community partners: by January 2010, return to the council with a scoping and resource plan for developing a food security plan which will (1) identify



community partners and form a project advisory committee; (2) review existing policies and food system assessments; (3) develop a market analysis plan; (4) identify benefits and barriers; and (5) determine the budget and timeline to complete the plan and identify resources available, including external funding sources.

The City Manager accepted the sixth recommendation as below:

6. Develop and implement a triple bottom line screen/assessment tool for City Council policy decisions. Once created and after staff training has been undertaken, this screen shall be used in the development of service profiles and to assess all policy level decisions made by the council, including new items proposed in the annual or supplemental budgets.

The recommendations are a combination of high priority initiatives, such as a

coordinated response to climate change and energy use reduction, as well as initiatives on which immediate action could be taken without further analysis; for example, the City operations waste reduction goal. The commission is very aware that there are other extremely high priority recommendations likely to arise from the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee that it will need to spend time and energy on researching, developing and then proposing to the City Council.



3.1.1 Progress on Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
1. City operations carbon neutral by 2020	Internal staff team developing action plan to reduce emissions.	Draft plan ready for commission review August 2009 Develop measures to track implementation of climate plan
2. City facilities 90% waste reduction by 2020	Staff identified to undertake work with input from cross departmental team	Work to begin July 09 Develop measures to track implementation of waste reduction plan
3. & 4. Community Climate and Energy Action Plan	Community climate and energy coordinator identified, community outreach and plan preparation underway	Community partner advisory team developed to help plan development and community outreach
5. Food security plan scoping report	Staff identified to undertake work, community partners aligned to assist	Work to begin July 09
6. Develop triple bottom line assessment tool for City decision making	Draft tool developed by staff team, piloted within City and refined	Training of staff on tool use and inclusion in decision making beginning summer 09. Develop measures to track implementation of TBL tool

3.2 Education and Outreach

The commission identified the need for both education and behavior change as critical components in helping to create a more sustainable community. In the first year the commissioners focused on educating themselves about City and key community sustainability initiatives. To help refine where the commission could be most effective within the eight broad issues, briefings were received from City staff and community members on aspects of climate change, transportation, land use, triple bottom line, green building, economic development, waste reduction and food. To enhance the discussion, the commission was briefed by the Portland Multnomah Sustainable Development Commission and United Way of Lane County. The commission also met with the Sustainability Board, an internal staff group, to identify opportunities to work collaboratively.

The commission established liaisons with over 20 groups and organizations throughout the community to develop and enhance partnership opportunities. Much valuable work has already been undertaken in the community. The commission is meeting and talking with other groups to explore how work can be undertaken more collaboratively. An initial joint meeting with the Planning Commission provided an excellent platform for further discussion of how to most effectively learn and work together.

Through commissioner outreach a partnership has been established with KEZI of Chambers Communications. KEZI was looking for ways to expand their sustainability issues related programming. The commission formed a small steering group to identify issues and provide relevant topics and experts to help create an active community forum through news stories, discussion panels and interactive internet dialogue.

With help from commissioners and other volunteers, the website www.sustaineugene.com has been re-launched. The website provides a framework for community sustainability information. Sustainability Commission information, the Mayor's Bold Steps Awards for sustainable businesses and the Mayor's Carbon Challenge form the core of the site.

3.3 Community Forum

The commission has become a forum for community members to voice their concerns and offer suggestions for improving sustainability policies and practices, as well as a venue to share sustainable initiatives they have developed with the commission and community. It's been a great opportunity for commissioners to hear from active community members. The commission is developing ways it can act as a hub, facilitating the sharing of experiences, linking complementary projects and offering ways to help the flow of information and collaboration between groups.

Several University of Oregon Planning and Business Management classes have also been attending commission meetings, following the development of the commission and learning how to be actively engaged in the community.

The commission developed a community request form and process for accessing requests for commission involvement, endorsement, assistance with community projects or presentations to groups. During the year the commission has written several letters of support including: Farmers' Market Promotion Program grant application, Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Transportation Commission regarding the "Last Resort" Herbicide spray pilot project and the Meet in the Street Project. The commission also urged EWEB to reconsider the option of installing solar photovoltaic panels on the new Roosevelt facilities.

The commission co-sponsored and participated in the Human Rights 60th Anniversary Celebration, as well as participating in the Neighborhood Leaders Summit, Centre for the Advancement of Sustainable Living Earth Day ground breaking



event and the Holistic Options for Planet Earth Sustainability (HOPES) conference.

3.4 Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee

In November 2008, the commission created the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee (LUTSCO) to focus on land use and transportation issues and tasked the subcommittee with researching and proposing recommendations on the nexus of these issues to the full commission and ultimately to the City Council. Given the breadth and scope of this charge LUTSCO developed an inventory of the many different land use and transportation initiatives underway and began researching progress. The subcommittee has been briefed on the Infill Compatibility Standards, Opportunity Siting and Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment projects, the West Eugene Collaborative, Lane Transit District transit and funding issues, electric vehicle infrastructure opportunities and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan. The subcommittee met with the Planning Commission prior to the joint commission meeting to begin exploring the commissions' intersection of interest and responsibilities.

The subcommittee is discussing specific recommendations to bring back to the Sustainability Commission, focusing in particular on where the Sustainability Commission can most effectively contribute to the discussion of moving the community towards increased sustainability – while acknowledging that much time and effort has already been invested in initiatives underway.

3.5 Business Study

One of the priorities identified by the commission was business. In the FY10 Work Plan the commission will look more specifically at business issues and in particular, job creation initiatives. To help inform discussion next year, research to identify the information and tools businesses need to help them operate more sustainably and/or produce more sustainable products or services was undertaken. Commission members and staff partnered with the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, GreenLane (a sustainable business network) and an MBA team at

the Lundquist School of Business, University of Oregon, on the research.

4 Review of the Year

The work outlined in this annual report could not have been accomplished without the help of volunteers and interns, as well as the many hours each commissioner has contributed to the tasks.

Creating a more sustainable community and City organization is a huge undertaking that requires commitment to change and resources at a number of different levels. The commissioners have worked intensively to prioritize the many issues they consider require research and action to help Eugene become more sustainable. Expectations are high from both the community and commissioners that they will be able to move swiftly and continue to make substantive recommendations to the City Council on ways to enhance the sustainability of Eugene across the triple bottom line.

The development of appropriate measures to assess the impact of the six adopted recommendations and future recommendations is a challenge. It is essential to establish metrics to ensure any action taken has a measurable outcome.

As the changes required to live and operate more sustainably are increasingly understood it is critical to integrate broad sustainability criteria throughout every decision made. A community and City response to climate change, and fossil fuel price increases and availability fluctuations have both emerged as urgent issues to address. The commission will need to work effectively with many different community partners to find ways of mitigating emissions and plan for adaptations that will be required in our community as a result of climate change.



